

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

Please delete original Sheet 2/8, having therein Figs. 3 and 4, and substitute therefor Replacement Sheet 2/8 enclosed herewith as an Appendix. This Replacement Sheet 2/8 changes original Fig. 3 to Fig. 3A, and includes additional Fig. 3B, showing gap 20 between corners 33b, 34b of hollow member 31 and projecting pieces 38 of hollow member 32. In connection therewith, note the requirement for corrected drawings set forth in the Notice of Allowability enclosed with the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due mailed May 19, 2006, in the above-identified application.

REMARKS

- The undersigned notes the requirement for corrected drawings set forth in the Notice of Allowability enclosed with the Notice of Allowance mailed May 19, 2006, in the above-identified application. Note especially Item 3 of the text material enclosed with this Notice of Allowability, indicating that "the gap" must be shown, which is recited in, for example, allowed claim 1.

In view of this requirement for amended drawings, Applicants are adding new Fig. 3B to the application, showing gap 20; and have re-numbered original drawing Fig. 3, as Fig. 3A. Moreover, Applicants have amended the Brief Description of the Drawings, to change "Figure 3" to --Figure 3A--; have added a brief description of Fig. 3B; have referred to Figure 3A on page 6, line 8; and have made reference to gap "20", shown in Fig. 3B, at page 6, lines 8 and 18-20, of Applicants' specification. Noting reference to the gap between the corners 33b, 34b and the projecting pieces 38, set forth on page 6, lines 8, 9 and 18-20, of Applicants' original specification, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments to the specification and drawings do not constitute new matter.

Initially, it is respectfully requested that the present amendments be entered, notwithstanding issuance of the Notice of Allowance mailed May 19, 2006. In this regard, note that the Examiner has required corrected drawings, making this requirement for the first time in the Notice of Allowability enclosed with the Notice of Allowance mailed May 19, 2006. For this reason alone, it is respectfully submitted that entry of the present amendments to the drawings and specification is clearly proper under 37 CFR 1.312, notwithstanding prior issuance of the aforementioned Notice of Allowance.


In any event, it is respectfully submitted that entry of the present amendments is clearly proper under any interpretation of the requirements of 37 CFR 1.312. In this regard, it is respectfully submitted that the present amendments embody correction of formal matters without changing the scope of the claims, being needed for more proper disclosure of the invention, and required by the Examiner in connection with the requirement for corrected drawings in the aforementioned Notice of Allowability. Clearly, noting Applicants' original disclosure, including the description on page 6, lines 8, 9 and 18-20, the present amendments do not constitute new matter nor raise any issue in connection therewith. Clearly, the present amendments will require no substantial additional amount of work on the part of the Office, and, in particular, on the part of the Examiner, again noting that the Examiner has required corrected drawings, and that the amendments to the specification are consistent with the corrected drawings and clearly do not constitute new matter.

In view of all the foregoing, entry of the present amendments under 37 CFR 1.312; and, subsequent thereto, issuance of a U.S. patent based upon the above-identified application in due course, are respectfully requested.

Applicants request any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper be charged to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (case 503.35255VX5), and credit any excess payment of fees to such Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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